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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SY-10 OPR-02 OMB-01 AID-20

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01

INRE-00 /144 W
---------- 029203
O 191205Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3844
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
COMUSSAG NKP THAI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12727

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CB
SUBJ: T-28 STRIKE ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

DEPT PASS NSC

REF: PHNOM PENH 12720

1. ACTING DEFENSE ATTACHE (AIRA) AND POMIL COUNSELOR VISITED PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND SHORTLY AFTER ATTACK REPORTED REFTEL AND FOUND MOST OF CABINET AND HIGH FANK COMMAND (INCLUDING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AND KAF CHIEF OF STAFF BG PENN RANNDA) ALREADY ASSEMBLED. POMIL COUNSELOR SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT LON NOL, WHO WAS

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COMPOSED. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLAN KHY TAING

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LIM, WHO WAS WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK,
SAID HE REACTED CALMLY.

2. FOUR MARK 82 500 LB. BOMBS WERE DROPPED IN TWO
PASSES BY ONE T-28. FIRST PASS WAS AT 1629 HOURS GOLF.
TWO BOMBS FELL IN AREA OF THE OFFICES OF LIBERATION AND
NATIONAL BUILDING DIRECTORATE (LENA), ONE PENETRATING ROOF
OF DIRECTORATE, WHICH IS ABOUT 150 METERS TO NORTH OF
PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE. MAIN LENA BUILDING WAS ALMOST
TOTALLY DESTROYED, MOVIE THEATER NEXT DOOR WAS BADLY
DAMAGED, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BUILDING ACROSS THE
STREET FROM PRESIDENTIAL COMPOND LOST ITS ROOF, AND OTHER
NEARBY BUILDINGS HAD WINDOWS SHATTERED. TWO LENA EMPLOYEES
WERE REPORTED KILLED BY THESE BOMBS.

3. TWO OTHER BOMBS FELL IN COVERED COURT YARD OF MAIN
BUILDING IN THE PALACE COMPOUND (HOUSING RECEPTION HALLS
AND OFFICES) 100 METERS SOUTH OF PRESIDENT'S RESI-
DENCE. ABOUT DOZEN OFFICES IN TWO WINGS OF BUILDING WERE
SHATTERED AND ROOF OVER OUTDOOR ENTERTAINEMENT AREA WAS
PENETRATED BY ONE BOMB. ONE EMPLOYEE WAS REPORTEDLY
KILLED IN THIS AREA.

4. RANNDA TOLD ACTING DEFATT THAT AIRCRAFT MAKING THE
ATTACK HAD RETURNED WITH PATROL OF THREE AIRCRAFT FROM
KOMPONG SPEU AREA AFTER REPORTING THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE
TO RELEASE BOMBS. HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS LT. PECH LIM
KUON, AND HIS MOTVIES FOR THE ATTACK ARE AS YET UNCLEAR.
KAF HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHEREABOUTS OF ATTACKING
AIRCRAFT.

5. ALL STREETS LEADING TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE HAVE
BEEN BLOCKED OFF. THIS AND A LARGE NUMBER OF CURIOUS
BY STANDERS HAVE CAUSED SOME TRAFFIC SNARLS BUT OTHERWISE
AREA AROUND PALACE AND EMBASSY IS QUIET.

6. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOMBING, CHARGE SENT LON
NOL THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: QUOTE IT IS WITH GREAT
RELIEF AND WITH GREAT JOY THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I LEARN
THAT YOU ARE SAFE AND SOUND. I DEPLOY THIS ISOLATED
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AND DISLOYAL ACT DIRECTED AGAINST YOUR PERSON. AT THE
SAME TIME WE GREATLY REGRET THE SUFFERING OF THE VICTIMS
OF THE ATTACK. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. UNQUOTE.
ENDERS

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NNN

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CB, (LON NOL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005